

Bear Snores On

by Karma Wilson

Acrylic paintings and rhythmic poetry create a heart-warming story about a hibernating bear and the lovable cast of animals that take refuge in his lair during a winter storm.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Have you ever seen a real bear before? What was it doing?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why these animals are watching the bear sleep?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Bear Snores On*

- lair: wild animal's den
- heap: large quantity or amount
- brew: to prepare tea or coffee for drinking
- slurps: drink something noisily
- badger: a medium-sized burrowing animal that is related to the weasel
- scuttles: to destroy or bring something to an end
- divvy: to portion out, to share
- gopher: a small short-tailed rodent that has fur-lined cheek pouches
- mole: a small animal that usually lives underground and has large forelimbs for digging
- wren: a small songbird with a slender down-turned beak, usually brown
- raven: large black bird of the crow family
- clutters: to make a place untidy or overfilled with objects
- slumbering: sleeping, inactivity
- gnarls: to snarl
- blustery: a sudden loud gust of wind

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was the bear doing in his lair?
- Who came to visit him first?
- What did the mouse do to make it warmer and brighter?
- What other animals came to visit?
- What did they do while the bear was sleeping?
- Why did the bear wake up? How did he react?
- What did all the animals do to make him stop crying?
- What happened to all the animals when the sun started to rise?



Do

Lights, Camera, Action!

Split the children into two groups (while one group is acting out the story, the other group is the audience). Spend time practicing the different roles and create costumes out of items found in the classroom. After the children are familiar with the actions and storyline, the two groups can take turns acting out the book. You will need to model giving positive feedback and appropriate reactions towards the actors. For example: *I love the way you laid there very still while you were pretending to sleep; I like how you pretended to cook popcorn; I appreciate you trying to recreate the book.* If desired, film the performances to show to parents, other classes and to the other children.